

**From:** Morning Consult  
**To:** [james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov); [The Morning Consult](#)  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington, Presented by the Electronic Payments Coalition: Trump to Spend Several Weeks Rallying Public Support for Tax Reform  
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By [Eli Yokley](#)

## Top Stories

- President Donald Trump will begin a public campaign, expected to last several weeks, to rally support for tax reform as congressional Republicans hash out details for the forthcoming legislation. Trump is scheduled to launch the campaign next week in Missouri. ([Financial Times](#))
- Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended that Trump alter at least three national monuments, including reducing the size of Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. The White House said Trump has received the report but did not say when he would act on its

recommendations. ([The Washington Post](#))

- The Republican National Committee is set to adopt a resolution today that would condemn white supremacists as a result of this month's deadly protest in Charlottesville, Va. Some officials are increasingly concerned about the party's image following Trump's remarks regarding the Aug. 12 protest. ([The Associated Press](#))
- A poll conducted for the Senate Leadership Fund found Sen. Luther Strange (R-Ala.) trailing former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore by 4 percentage points ahead of a special GOP primary election runoff scheduled for Sept. 26. ([Washington Examiner](#))

## Chart Review

[\*\*Polling Shows GOP Voters Souring on McConnell as Trump Keeps Up Attacks\*\*](#)

**Morning Consult**

## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### **FRIDAY**

No events scheduled



## General

### [RNC to vote on condemning, but some roll eyes](#)

**Thomas Beaumont, The Associated Press**

Still cleaning up after President Donald Trump's comments about a deadly protest in Virginia, the Republican National Committee is headed toward adoption of a resolution condemning white supremacists. And while the rebuke of groups Trump waffled on is expected to pass overwhelmingly Friday, some attending the summer meeting of the party's most faithful are rolling their eyes at the move.

### [Markets Eye Debt Ceiling With Unease](#)

**Ben Eisen and Kristina Peterson, The Wall Street Journal**

Early signs of concern about the federal debt ceiling are creeping into the financial markets, as President Donald Trump pressured lawmakers over how to proceed on the issue. While stocks remain sturdy, the yields on Treasury bills that mature shortly after the debt-limit deadline have been on the rise.

### [Mnuchin viewed eclipse from roof of Fort Knox](#)

**Drew Harwell and Beth Reinhard, The Washington Post**

Louise Linton, wife of U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, drew accusations of elitism this week for an Instagram glamour shot of her stepping off a government jet - and for her mockery of an online critic as "adorably out of touch." But a watchdog group and a lawmaker seized on a different issue: Did the millionaire couple fly to Louisville on Monday, on a taxpayer-funded plane, just to see the solar eclipse?

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## **Presidential**

### [Trump to push for tax reform passage by year's end, says Cohn](#)

**Demetri Sevastopulo et al., Financial Times**

Donald Trump will launch a major push on tax reform next week with a speech in Missouri, as the president shifts focus to fiscal policy in an effort to secure a badly needed first big legislative victory by the end of the year. Gary Cohn, head of the White House national economic council, told the Financial Times that the speech, which officials said was planned for Wednesday, would be the first in a series of addresses designed to convince the US public about the need to revamp a tax system that has remained largely unchanged for three decades.

### [Interior secretary recommends Trump alter at least three national monuments, including Bears Ears](#)

**Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears, The Washington Post**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended Thursday that President Trump alter at least three national monuments established by his immediate predecessors, including two in Utah, a move expected to reshape federal land and water protections and certain to trigger major legal fights. In a report

Zinke submitted to the White House, the secretary recommended reducing the size of Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, as well as Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, according to multiple individuals briefed on the decision.

### **Trump seriously considering ending DACA**

**Jonathan Swan, Axios**

President Trump is seriously considering ending DACA, the Obama-era policy that shields some illegal immigrants from deportation, before conservative state attorneys general file a court challenge to the program. Sources familiar with the deliberations tell Axios that Trump has made no final decision, and the White House continues to receive advice from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

### **Trump distances himself from GOP lawmakers to avoid blame if agenda stalls**

**Philip Rucker et al., The Washington Post**

President Trump is strategically separating himself from Republicans in Congress, an extraordinary move to deflect blame if the GOP agenda continues to flounder. Trump deepened the fissures in the party on Thursday when he accused the top two leaders on Capitol Hill of mismanaging a looming showdown over the nation's borrowing authority.

### **RNC will defend GOP nominees - even ones Trump trashes**

**Katie Glueck, McClatchy DC**

Donald Trump has described one of his own party's most vulnerable incumbent senators as "weak on crime" and "toxic." The Republican National Committee's chairwoman has warned that Republicans who oppose Trump offer a "cautionary tale."

### **Secret Service spent \$7,100 renting luxury portable toilets for Trump's Bedminster trip**

**Jessica Estepa, USA Today**

The financial strains on the Secret Service under the Trump administration are now well-known. And you can add luxury portable restrooms to their mounting bills.

## Senate

### [New Alabama Senate poll: Roy Moore edging Luther Strange by just 4 points](#)

**David M. Drucker, Washington Examiner**

Sen. Luther Strange trails Roy Moore by 4 percentage points in a new poll shared first with the Washington Examiner, putting him within striking distance of the former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in a special GOP primary election runoff nearly five weeks before Election Day. Moore won the first round, defeating Strange by 6 points, 38.9 percent to 32.8 percent; Rep. Mo Brooks finished with 19.7 percent.

### [Schumer: After Charlottesville, end Trump's voter fraud commission](#)

**Elana Schor, Politico**

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on Thursday pressed President Donald Trump to shutter the commission investigating Trump's unfounded theories of massive voter fraud in the 2016 election, linking voter disenfranchisement to the violent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. If Trump does not dismantle the Election Integrity Commission - which has sparked controversy as state officials in both parties refuse to hand over voter information to the administration - Schumer urged Congress to "prohibit its operation through one of the must-pass legislative vehicles" that are set to get considered next month.

### [Flake hearing airs arguments to break up 9th Circuit](#)

**Diamond Naga Siu, Politico**

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) held an unusual Senate hearing Thursday in Phoenix to air his plan to to break up the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Flake has proposed a bill to split the court's jurisdiction, which currently covers Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and territorial districts in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

### [Sen. McCaskill speaks on range of topics at Cape town-hall meeting](#)

**Ben Matthews, Southeast Missourian**

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill held a series of town halls Saturday in Southeast

Missouri, making stops in Kennett, Poplar Bluff and Dexter before concluding the tour in the Shuck Recital Hall at the Southeast Missouri State University's River Campus in Cape Girardeau. According to a news release, McCaskill (D-Mo.) has held more public, in-person town halls as senator than the rest of Missouri's delegation combined.

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## House

### [Democrats Score Marine Veteran to Challenge Poliquin](#)

**Simone Pathé, Roll Call**

Democrats have landed a top recruit in a rural Maine district where candidate profiles matter - even more so than most places. State House Assistant Majority Leader Jared Golden, a Marine veteran, announced his candidacy for the 2nd District in Lewiston's Kennedy Park Thursday morning.

### [Ryan faces diciest stretch of his speakership](#)

**Rachael Bade, Politico**

For all its power and prestige, the speaker of the House is one of the most thankless jobs in Washington - just ask John Boehner. Now, with Congress barreling toward major fiscal fights this fall, Paul Ryan is about to get a taste of the Boehner treatment - and then some.

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## States

### [Federal judges decline to scrap Maryland's congressional voting map](#)

**Ann E. Marimow and Josh Hicks, The Washington Post**

Federal judges on Thursday declined to throw out Maryland's congressional voting map that challengers say was intentionally designed to give Democrats an electoral edge. The 2-to-1 decision allows the state to maintain those voting boundaries for the 2018 election and puts the lawsuit on hold until after the Supreme Court has ruled in a similar partisan gerrymandering case from Wisconsin scheduled for October.

### [LePage: Collins 'highly unlikely' to win GOP gubernatorial primary](#)



## **Daniel Strauss, Politico**

Maine Gov. Paul LePage predicted Thursday that Sen. Susan Collins would probably lose a Republican primary in the state if she decides to run for governor. LePage was asked about the possibility that Collins would try to succeed him during an interview with Maine's WGAN, and he offered his latest round of criticism of his fellow Republican.

## **Obama makes rare endorsement in crucial St. Petersburg race**

### **Marc Caputo, Politico**

Former President Barack Obama is intervening in a bellwether Florida election, endorsing St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman in the hopes of juicing Democratic turnout in Tuesday's multi-candidate race in order to force a November run-off, sources tell POLITICO. Obama's rare endorsement is crucial both for Kriseman - who has been bleeding support from African-American voters - and for a demoralized Florida Democratic Party that's still reeling over President Donald Trump's surprise win in November.

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## **Advocacy**

## **In D.C., lobbying 'swamp' isn't drained so much as clogged**

### **Matt Viser, The Boston Globe**

The amount of lobbying activity being reported has declined in President Trump's Washington, but observers say it's not because he is making good on his promise to "drain the swamp" of special interests. The slow pace of legislation, stiffer rules, and a gradual decline in the number of lobbyists have contributed to the decrease in the first half of 2017.

## **Execs launch India forum after split from Chamber**

### **Megan R. Wilson, The Hill**

Following an acrimonious split with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, several business executives have founded a new group aimed at creating better relations between the United States and India. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum launched earlier this month in New Delhi.

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## **A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:**

Taking a road trip to escape the heat this summer? Watch out for skimmers at gas stations, which can steal your card data-including PINs-and cause you a headache during your vacation. [Learn more](#) from EPC.

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## Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

### [Trump's Executive Order Puts Infrastructure, Taxpayers At Risk](#)

**Cathleen Kelly, Morning Consult**

You may have missed the original intent of President Donald Trump's news conference in New York last week - the one in which he made his unconscionable defense of the white supremacists who rallied in Charlottesville, Va. At that event, Trump also announced a new executive order that will roll back environmental reviews and a standard to reduce flood risks to infrastructure.

### [Trump is exactly what Republicans are not](#)

**John C. Danforth, The Washington Post**

Many have said that President Trump isn't a Republican. They are correct, but for a reason more fundamental than those usually given. Some focus on Trump's differences from mainstream GOP policies, but the party is broad enough to embrace different views, and Trump agrees with most Republicans on many issues.

### [Trump Divorces the GOP Congress](#)

**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

A biographer says Donald Trump once told him that he informed second wife Marla Maples he was seeking a divorce by leaking it to the New York Post. President Trump now seems to be using Twitter to tell Republicans in Congress that he's divorcing them, or at least seeking a trial separation, and for its own self-preservation the GOP Congress is going to have to find different living arrangements.

### [Say No to Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Mr. Trump](#)

**The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

It would be difficult for President Trump, who has insulted judges and tried to

interfere with a federal investigation, to show much more disrespect for the rule of law. But if he makes good on his implicit vow to pardon Joe Arpaio, the disgraced former sheriff of Maricopa County, Ariz., Mr. Trump would be scorning the Constitution itself.

### **Don't count on 'Trump's generals' to save us**

**Matt Bai, Yahoo News**

Well, that's a relief. For a while there, it seemed as if our democracy was starting to look like some backward former colony in Africa or Latin America, where everything is controlled by the ruling family whose demagogue patriarch doles out fiefdoms to a tight circle of privileged heirs.

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### **A Message from the Electronic Payments Coalition:**

\$2 BILLION! That's how much theft from gas station skimmers cost consumers in 2014. The Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC) has [tips to help you protect yourself](#) when you're filling up at home or traveling far and wide this summer.

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## **Research Reports and Polling**

### **Cassidy-Graham Would Deeply Cut and Drastically Redistribute Health Coverage Funding Among States**

**Matt Broaddus and Edwin Park, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

Senators Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham are reportedly working with the White House to push their plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Cassidy-Graham plan (which Senator Dean Heller has also co-sponsored) would have much the same damaging consequences as other Senate and House Republican repeal and replace bills.

### **Senate 2018: Republican Edge Runs Up Against Trump, History** **Kyle Kondik, Sabato's Crystal Ball**

Ever since Donald Trump won the presidency, 2018's race for the Senate seemed to pit two powerful, competing forces against one another: the Republicans' long and enticing list of Democratic targets, several of which are in some of Trump's best states, versus the longstanding tendency of the

president's party to struggle to make gains in midterm elections. That second point, on midterm struggles, is not only amplified by the president's poor approval ratings, but also by some history that is daunting for the president's party: It's uncommon for an incumbent in the presidential out party to lose reelection in a midterm.



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